

REMARKS**Summary of Office Action**

Claims 10-13, 19-22, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Nickell et al. (US, 5,848,225).

Claims 15, 16, 24, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nickell et al. in view of Dermer et al. (US, 5,313,570).

Claims 17, 18, 26, 27, 29, and 30 stand objected to as allegedly being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Claims 10, 19, and 28 are amended to incorporate the features of dependent claims 17, 26, and 31, respectively. Claims 29 and 30 are rewritten in independent form. Claims 17, 26, and 31 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. In addition, claims 1-9, 14, and 23 are cancelled previously. Accordingly, claims 10-13, 15, 16, 18-22, 24, 25, 27-30 are presently pending for consideration.

Inconsistency in the Office Action

On the Office Action Summary page, claims 17-18, 26-27, 29, 30, and 31 are listed as claims being objected to. However, on page 5 of the Action, claim 31 was not included in the listing of claims being objected to. Applicant believes that this is an oversight of the Office and the Examiner meant to include claim 31 as one of the objected to claims. Accordingly, Applicant prepared this Amendment based on the above assertion.

Objection of Claims

On page 5 of the Action, the Office indicates that claims 17, 18, 26, 27, 29, and 30 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant amends independent claim 10 by incorporating the features of dependent claim 17, amends independent claim 19 by incorporating the features of dependent claim 26, amends independent claim 28 by incorporating the features of dependent claim 30, and rewrites claims 29 and 30 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims as suggested by the Examiner. Furthermore, claims 17, 26, and 31 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests objection of claims 17, 18, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31 be withdrawn.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10-13, 19-22, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Nickell et al. (US, 5,848,225). And, claims 15, 16, 24, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nickell et al. in view of Dermer et al. (US, 5,313,570). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and the Office Action's interpretation of the applied references at least for the following reasons.

As indicated on page 5 of the Action and as stated above, independent claim 10 is amended by incorporating the allowable features of dependent claim 17. Similarly, independent claims 19 and 28 are amended by incorporating the allowable features of dependent claims 26 and 31, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that newly amended independent claims 10, 19, and 28 are clearly allowable. In addition, dependent claims 11-13, 15,

16, 18, 20, 21, 24, 25, and 27 are allowable based on their dependency from respective one of allowable independent claims 10, 19, and 28, as well as individual features each dependent claim recite. Moreover, as noted on page 5 of the Action, dependent claims 29 and 30 are rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits newly amended claims 29 and 30 are also allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests rejection of claims 10-13, 19-22, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and rejection of claims 5, 16, 24, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

In light of arguments presented above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance since the outstanding rejections and objections should be withdrawn in view of this Amendment.

CONCLUSION

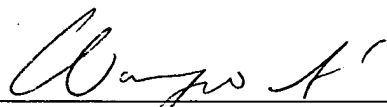
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all rejections, and the timely allowance of all pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under

37 C.R.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By: 
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